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ADDRESS ON
MEDICAL LIBRARIES



SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE

LIBRARY.

Section, LIBRARY SECTION

No. 134479.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

No. 12 WEST THIRTY-FIRST STREET.

1877.

THE New York Academy of Medicine was organized in the city of New York, on the 6th day of January, 1847, and by a special act of the Legislature of the State was incorporated on the 23d day of June, 1851. This act was amended on the 4th day of June, 1853, empowering the incorporators to appoint five delegates to represent them in the State Medical Society, with all the powers and privileges possessed by delegates from the respective Medical Colleges of the State.

This Corporation is composed of Resident, non-Resident, Corresponding, and Honorary Fellows. The Constitution declares its objects to be :

First. The cultivation of the Science of Medicine.

Second. The advancement of the character and honor of the Profession.

Third. The elevation of the standard of Medical Education.

Fourth. The promotion of the Public Health.

From its inception, one of its chief purposes has been the procurement of a building or hall, where its meetings might be held, where a library could be garnered, and where the profession could meet on common ground. The efforts put forth in this direction culminated in 1875, in the purchase by the Academy of the commodious building, centrally located on West Thirty-first Street, between Broadway and Fifth Avenue, which it now occupies, and which will for some time to come answer all its wants and those of the profession. The regular meetings are held here on the First and Third Thursday evenings in the month (except July and August), at eight o'clock. The Publications comprise five volumes of "Transactions," four volumes of the "Bulletin," and some forty miscellaneous "Addresses," "Memoirs," "Reports," etc. All of these Publications are for sale at the Library, or will be exchanged for works not already in the Library.



By virtue of its Charter the following named Funds have been created. These are designed to meet certain specific wants of the institution, and their importance will not fail to command the attention, and it is hoped, the aid of the Fellows and friends of the Academy by donations or bequests. It should be remembered that the interest only, arising from careful investments of these funds, can be used for the purposes for which each is individually created.

PERMANENT FUND.

This fund, to which additions are being made from time to time, will enable the Academy to anticipate the necessities for enlarged and better accommodations, which in a few years must be demanded of it, and the profession in this great metropolis.

LIBRARY FUND.

The progress made during the past two years, through donations and bequests, in establishing a reference library adequate to the wants of the professional public, have been productive of the most satisfactory results. The creation of a Library Fund, the interest of which can only be used in the purchase of such books as are needed, and which are not likely to come into the Library by gift, enables the Committee on Library to remedy such defects as may appear, from time to time, in any of the departments of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences.

May it not reasonably be expected that the Fellows and friends of the institution will exert themselves to increase the Funds above enumerated?

By a very liberal act of the Legislature of 1877, which is hereto annexed, powers and privileges are granted to the Academy such as never before were possessed by any Medical Society in the State of New York. The trust powers of this institution are now ample, and are fully protected by legal enactment; and if these privileges are duly appreciated and improved by the Fellows of the Academy, this body cannot fail to occupy a position and permanency which will be commensurate with the needs of the profession.

CHAP. 375.

AN ACT TO CONFER CERTAIN POWERS AND PRIVILEGES UPON
THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

Passed June 2, 1877, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. The present Board of Trustees of the New York Academy of Medicine as now organized, consisting of five members, shall be continued, and on the expiration of the term of any of the said trustees, a successor shall be elected who shall hold his office for five years, and until his successor shall be elected.

SEC. 2. In case of the death or resignation of any trustee during his term, his successor shall be elected for the residue of his term thus unexpired.

SEC. 3. On the expiration of the term of any of the said trustees, a successor shall be elected who shall hold his office for five years, and until his successor shall be elected.

SEC. 4. The said Corporation may take and hold in trust any personal or real estate either by purchase, gift, bequest, or devise, the annual income of which shall not exceed ten thousand dollars.

SEC. 5. Any property so purchased, given, bequeathed or devised to the said Corporation, unless the use is otherwise specifically designated by the donor, shall be added to and form a part of the general permanent fund held in trust by said Corporation, the interest or income of which shall only be used by the said Corporation for the purpose of advancing Medical

Science under their direction, and any court of record may restrain any expenditure, or misappropriation of such property or any part thereof, on complaint of any three of the Fellows of the said "New York Academy of Medicine" qualified to vote at the annual election for trustees.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, } ss.

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

..... Given under my hand and the seal of office of
:L. S.: the Secretary of State at the city of Albany, this
:.....: fourth day of June, in the year one thousand eight
hundred and seventy-seven.

JOHN BIGELOW, *Secretary of State.*

FORM OF BEQUEST.

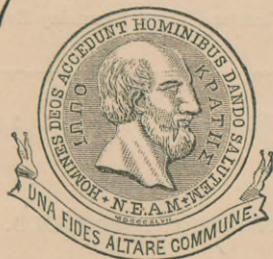
I give and bequeath to the NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, in the City of New York, incorporated by the Legislature of the State of New York in the year 1851, the sum of ——— Dollars, to be applied to the use [*describe the fund*], under the direction of the Trustees thereof.

FORM OF DEVISE.

I give and devise to the NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, in the City of New York, incorporated by the Legislature of the State of New York in the year 1851, all that, &c. [*describe the property*], to be had and holden to the said NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE in the City of New York, and their successors and assigns, for the use and benefit of the said Academy of Medicine.

To
Fordyce Barker, M.D.
Pres. N.Y. Acad. Med.

New York Jan'y 2^d 1879. with the best wishes of
Samuel S. Purple



NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

1877.

AN ADDRESS

ON THE

MEDICAL LIBRARIES OF NEW YORK.



NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE,

12 West Thirty-first Street.

Regular Meetings, First and Third Thursday Evenings in the Month.

OFFICERS FOR 1877.

President.

SAMUEL S. PURPLE, M.D.

Vice-Presidents.

GOUVERNEUR M. SMITH, M.D.,

FORDYCE BARKER, M.D.,

WILLIAM T. WHITE, M.D.

Recording Secretary.

HORACE T. HANKS, M.D.

Corresponding Secretary.

JOHN G. ADAMS, M.D.

Treasurer.

HORACE P. FARNHAM, M.D.

Trustees.

EDMUND R. PEASLEE, M.D.,

JAMES L. BANKS, M.D.,

AUSTIN FLINT, M.D.,

SAMUEL T. HUBBARD, M.D.,

ISAAC E. TAYLOR, M.D.

Librarian.

LAURENCE JOHNSON, M.D.

EDWIN R. PURPLE, *Assistant.*

Assistant Secretary.

EDWIN F. WARD, M.D.

Statistical Secretary.

ALLAN McL. HAMILTON, M.D.

COMMITTEES FOR 1877.

Committee on Admissions.

ELLSWORTH ELIOT, M.D., *Chairman*, EDWARD H. JANES, M.D.,
MARK BLUMENTHAL, M.D., T. MATLACK CHEESMAN, M.D.,
JOSEPH E. JANVRIN, M.D.

Committee on Medical Ethics.

OLIVER WHITE, M.D., *Chairman*, THOMAS C. FINNELL, M.D.,
T. MATLACK CHEESMAN, M.D., MOREAU MORRIS, M.D.,
JOHN C. PETERS, M.D.

Committee on Medical Education.

ALFRED C. POST, M.D., *Chairman*, JAMES R. LEAMING, M.D.,
EDMUND R. PEASLEE, M.D., CHARLES C. LEE, M.D.,
FREDERICK A. BURRALL, M.D.

Committee on Library.

JAMES R. LEAMING, M.D., *Chairman*, JOHN H. HINTON, M.D.,
E. DARWIN HUDSON, JR., M.D., GEORGE BAYLES, M.D., *Secretary*,
LAURENCE JOHNSON, M.D.

Committee on Ways and Means.

JAMES ANDERSON, M.D., *Chairman*, WILLARD PARKER, M.D.,
SAMUEL T. HUBBARD, M.D., JARED LINSLEY, M.D.,
JOHN G. ADAMS, M.D., STEPHEN SMITH, M.D.,
SAMUEL S. PURPLE, M.D., GOUVERNEUR M. SMITH, M.D., *Sec'y.*

Committee on Building.

SAMUEL T. HUBBARD, M.D., JAMES L. BANKS, M.D.

SECTIONS.

Section on Surgery.

Regular Meeting, Second Tuesday Evening in the Month.

STEPHEN SMITH, M.D., *Chairman*, A. B. JUDSON, M.D., *Secretary.*

Section on Theory and Practice of Medicine.

Regular Meeting, Third Tuesday Evening in the Month.

GOUVERNEUR M. SMITH, M.D., *Chairman*, A. A. SMITH, M.D., *Secretary.*

Section on Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

Regular Meeting, Third Monday Evening in the Month.

ISAAC E. TAYLOR, M.D., *Chairman*, SALVATORE CARO, M.D., *Secretary.*

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

OF THE

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

The following Publications of the Academy can be obtained at the Library, 12 West 31st Street, on application to the Librarian, at the prices affixed; or the same may be had in exchange for medical works, etc., not already in the Library.*

TRANSACTIONS.

First Series. Vols. 1, pages 461; 2, pages 454, and 3, pages 476; each, \$2 50
Second Series. Vols. 1, pages 429, and 2, pages 502; each,..... 4 00

BULLETIN.

Vols. 1, pages 588; 2, pages 562; 3, pages 470, and 4, pages 264; each, 2 00

Single Parts of the Transactions and Bulletin will be sold separately (when complete sets are not broken by so doing) at the rate of TEN cents for every sixteen pages.

Copies of the Transactions, Vols. 1 and 2, Second Series, in cloth, will be exchanged, with Fellows of the Academy, for copies in paper, by the payment of fifty cents each volume.

ADDRESSES AND MEMOIRS.

Dr John W. Francis' Anniversary Discourse.....	1847.	\$0 25
Dr. John W. Francis' Inaugural Address.....	1848.	10
Dr. James R. Manley's Anniversary Discourse.....	1848.	25
Dr. Valentine Mott's Inaugural Address.....	1849.	10
Dr. Alfred C. Post's Anniversary Oration.....	1849.	25
Dr. Isaac Wood's Inaugural Address.....	1850.	10
Dr. Joseph M. Smith's Anniversary Discourse.....	1850.	25
Dr. Thomas Cock's Inaugural Address.....	1852.	10
Dr. F. Campbell Stewart's Anniversary Discourse.....	1852.	25
Dr. E. Delafield's Biographical Sketch of J. Kearny Rodgers, M.D.	1852.	25
Dr. John H. Griscom's Anniversary Discourse.....	1854.	25
Dr. John Watson's Anniversary Discourse, "The Medical Profes- sion in Ancient Times".....	1855.	1 00
Dr. J. M. Sims' Anniversary Discourse, "Silver Sutures in Surgery".	1857.	50
Dr. J. P. Batchelder's Inaugural Address.....	1858.	10
Dr. E. R. Peaslee's Anniversary Discourse, "The Progress and the Spirit of Medical Science".....	1858.	50
Dr. Wm. C. Roberts' Anniversary Discourse.....	1859.	25
Dr. John Watson's Anniversary Discourse, "The True Physician".	1860.	25
Dr. James Anderson's Inaugural Address.....	1861.	10
Dr. Mott's Eulogy on Dr. J. W. Francis.....	1861.	25
Dr. S. Conant Foster's Anniversary Address.....	1862.	25
Dr. John W. Draper's Anniversary Discourse.....	1863.	25
Dr. A. C. Post's Eulogy on Dr. Valentine Mott. Steel Portrait.	1865.	50
Portrait of Dr. V. Mott on India Paper. Small 4to, 50c.; large 4to.		1 00
Dr. James Anderson's Valedictory Address.....	1867.	20
Dr. Gouverneur M. Smith's Anniversary Discourse.....	1869.	25
Dr. John C. Dalton's Anniversary Discourse.....	1873.	25
Dr. D. B. St. John Roosa's Anniversary Discourse.....	1874.	15
Dr. Austin Flint's Valedictory and Dr. Purple's Inaugural.....	1875.	15
Dr. E. Darwin Hudson, Jr.'s, Anniversary Discourse.....	1875.	15
Dr. Wm. T. White's Anniversary Discourse.....	1876.	20

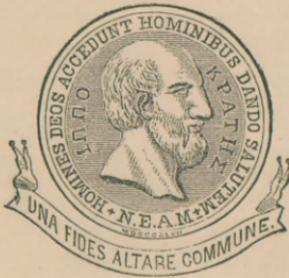
* The Library is open daily from 2 to 5 o'clock P.M., Sundays and Holidays excepted.

MEDICAL LIBRARIES;

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE NEW YORK
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, JANUARY 18, 1877, ON
TAKING THE CHAIR AS PRESIDENT A
SECOND TERM.

BY

SAMUEL S. PURPLE, M.D.,
PRESIDENT.



NEW YORK:
PRINTED FOR THE ACADEMY,
12 WEST THIRTY-FIRST STREET.
1877.

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1877

A D D R E S S .

FELLOWS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE :

IN yielding to the requirements of an established custom, the obligations of which devolve upon me by reason of your choice a second time, to occupy the honorable position and discharge the duties of your presiding officer, I have been led to believe that on this occasion the interests of this Institution can be promoted, possibly, in no better way than by a brief survey of the progress that this Academy has made during the past two years—the means which have been adopted and are still required to extend its beneficial influence.

To speak of causes which retard the scientific growth of medical associations, and of professional harmony, which causes necessarily exist in all commercial cities, is no purpose of mine. These will, as social intercourse, literary culture, and the love of science become more deeply implanted in the hearts, and age matures the judgment of medical men, take to themselves wings and fly away. They will hide themselves in narrow and sordid minds, who soon pass from the active stage of medical life, and, like falling stars, leave no track behind them.

First, then, of the material progress of this Academy: Two years ago this month, your Committee on Ways and Means, after several years of earnest effort to acquire the requisite funds, had just engaged to purchase this comfortable and commodious building for the use of the Academy and of the profession. That Committee, acting upon instructions, as soon as possession of the property could be obtained, prepared it for use, and on the 20th of May, 1875, this Academy, for the first

time, held a meeting in its own home. The limits of the present time will not permit me to detail the interesting exercises of that occasion. Justice to the memory of departed founders of this Institution, however, demands that I should state that portraits in oil of Drs. John Stearns, Joseph M. Smith, Galen Carter, and Gilbert Smith, all founders of this Academy, all exemplary, honorable, most worthy, and active members of the medical profession in this city, were on that evening donated by venerating friends, and placed upon our walls; and those of Drs. Isaac Wood, John Watson, James Anderson, and Alfred Underhill, also original members, were soon after added to our gallery, where, by striking resemblance to the distinguished originals, and constant presence, they will act as prompters of professional zeal and social harmony. I see here to-night only a few of their contemporaries. Many of the original members have passed away to that bourne from which no traveller returns. May we not hope that ere long likenesses of these, our honored dead, may also be placed upon our walls, by loving wives, affectionate children, or kind friends, to which we may direct the attention of the rising members of our profession, and to whom we may say: "These are our jewels?"

Viewed from a scientific standpoint, the proceedings of the stated meetings and the papers read before the Academy during the period now under review, have been equal to, if not in advance of, previous years. Many of the papers read here have been published at once in the leading medical journals of this country; while others of unusual merit in the different divisions of medicine, have, under instructions emanating from the Council, been by the Committee on Publication carried through the press and published by D. Appleton & Co. in a comely volume of over five hundred octavo pages, which will, for scientific merit, beauty of typography, and commendable appearance, compare favorably with the publications of sister institutions either in this country or Europe.

A revised edition of the Constitution and By-Laws, which

included a list of Fellows and contributors to the Building Fund, was published in August last, which represents more perfectly the condition of the Fellowship of the Academy than any previous publication; and, finally, the instructive and interesting Anniversary Discourses of Drs. Hudson and Wm. T. White have been placed in the hands of the members in a printed form. The aggregate cost of all these publications represents about thirty per cent. of the annual dues paid by the members, which, being gratuitously distributed among them, may be regarded in the nature of a dividend to those who have paid the "annual tax."

Thus, it will be seen that this Institution, unlike some others, recognizes the moneys paid into the treasury as in the nature of trust funds, which should only be used for the comfort, edification, and improvement of its Fellowship, and the profession.

And this brings me to a subject which has claims upon the attention of the Fellows of no ordinary importance. It will be remembered by those who have carefully studied our constitution and laws, that our very worthy and honorable Board of Trustees are invested with the charge of the "Building Fund and its accumulations by interest, donation, or bequest, and of all other invested funds of the Academy;" and it is made their duty "safely to invest, to collect the interest on, and hold the securities for any moneys of the Academy intrusted to their care; to report the modes of investment and the condition of the funds or property to the council, when required, and annually to the Academy." Already donations to the first-named fund have been made, and the earnest and prompt attention and aid of the Fellows is called to its immediate increase. May we not expect that additional zeal will be incited in the membership of this Academy by the attainment of an object which, we have reason to believe, will be reached at no distant day, through the honorable the Legislature of this State?—the realization of which will again markedly demonstrate the wise and comprehensive foresight of those who have been trusted,

and have not been found wanting in their devotion to the best interests of this Institution.

If we recall the results attained during the past year, both in the number and value of books received into our library, there probably will not be a Fellow of this Academy but will be surprised and possibly stimulated to extend a helping hand to push forward a work which has much to commend itself to all. From the first annual report of your Library Committee, we gather these facts: There were received into the Library, by donation and bequest, during the year 1876, one thousand and seventy-six bound volumes, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five medical pamphlets and miscellaneous medical journals, twenty anatomical and pathological plates, ten lithographic portraits of distinguished medical men, and three plaster busts. All from sixty-three donors. Of this number three hundred and eighty-four volumes were received by legacy from our ever to be remembered friend and distinguished associate Fellow, the late Dr. John Osgood Stone, whose sudden, but not to him unexpected death, on the 7th of June last, cast a gloom over a wide circle of friends, and also of the whole community. His interest in the Academy had been previously manifested by valuable gifts to our Library, and to the Building Fund. May we not hope that this last evidence of his good will, as well as that so kindly shown us by his bereaved widow, will prove suggestive to many others of our number?

As these results have been reached through voluntary donations and bequests, with scarcely any pecuniary outlay from the treasury of the Academy, may we not expect that a moderate amount of pecuniary aid, combined with like efforts, and the institution of a Library Fund during the present year, will place the library of this Academy upon a sure basis, and soon cause it to rank among the first in this country? Then and not till then, will it fully meet the required wants of the Fellows and those of the profession.

But here, at this stage of my desultory remarks, I am reminded that there are some who doubt the feasibility, and also

the permanency of any success in this direction. But let me ask, do not historic records prove that in no period of the history of the art or science of medicine has any great improvement been made through the labors of the many? Nearly all has been accomplished through the zeal and effort of a few individuals. Witness the advance made in anatomy and physiology by the world-renowned Harvey; the advance in practical medicine by Britain's distinguished physician, Bright; Ireland's careful and intelligent clinical observer, Stokes; or—turning our attention to our own country—the advance in gynecology, by a Kentucky backwoodsman, the cautious yet bold McDowell, the father of ovariotomy; or—coming still nearer home—the advance in conservative and operative surgery by a former President of this Academy.

And now, gentlemen, permit me to direct your attention to the history of the efforts that have been made by the profession in this city to establish a library, to meet the wants of medical men. The first notice we have of the existence of a medical library here, connected with a medical organization, goes no further back than the year 1787, and is that belonging to the "Medical Society" as it was then called. This Society was instituted previous to the war of the American Revolution, and is alluded to in a discourse by Dr. Peter Middleton, published in 1769.* Upon the capture of this city by the British forces under Howe and Sir Henry Clinton, in September, 1776, it suspended operations, and was not resuscitated until the fall of 1784. I have as yet failed to find any mention of a Library in connection with this Society before 1787.

On the 4th of November, 1794, the Medical Society of the State of New York was organized,† and Dr. John Charlton

* A Medical Discourse, or an Historical Inquiry into the Ancient History and Present State of Medicine: The Substance of which was Delivered at Opening the Medical School in the City of New York. By Peter Middleton, M.D., And Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in King's College. Printed by Desire. New York: Printed by Hugh Gaine, in Hanover Square, M.DCCCLXIX.

A copy of this work is in the Library of this Academy.

† MS. Minutes of the Medical Society of the State of New York from 1794

elected President, and Dr. John R. B. Rodgers, Secretary. Negotiations were immediately entered into to purchase the library of the "Medical Society," and in December of the same year the Librarian, Dr. William Pitt Smith, was ordered to transfer the same by sale to the newly organized Society. On the 13th of January, 1795, Dr. David Hosack was appointed Librarian, and the books were placed under his care, subject to the rules of the City Library, then located in the City Hall, and to which in the following summer this Library was removed. On the 11th of April, 1797, a Committee, consisting of Drs. John R. B. Rodgers, James Tillery, and William Hamersley, was appointed to confer with the Governors of the New York Hospital on the subject of uniting this Library with the one which they had instituted in July, 1796, in connection with the Hospital, on the recommendation of the Medical Faculty of Columbia College, and to which they had appropriated the sum of five hundred dollars for the purchase of medical books. On the 10th of October following, the Committee reported that they had failed to accomplish the object contemplated, and were discharged. In July, 1800, the censors of the Medical Society of the State of New York authorized Dr. Nicholas Romaine, then in London, to purchase books to the amount of fifty dollars; these books came into their possession in October of that year. On the 11th of January, 1803, the Society received a donation of several volumes from Dr. John Coakley Lettsom, of London. In the spring of 1805 negotiations between the Society and the Governors of the New York Hospital were renewed, and on the 9th of April of that year the Society passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of three members be appointed to confer with the Governors of the New York Hospital on the subject of assigning the Library of this Society to the said Governors, for the purpose of increasing the Library of the Hospital, and that they propose as a condition that present members of

to 1806, recently donated to the Library of this Academy by Dr. S. W. Francis, of Newport, Rhode Island.

this Society shall become entitled to a share in said Library, which share shall descend to a son, provided he shall become a regular bred physician and a resident practitioner in this city.

Resolved, That Drs. Tillery, Stringham, and Hamersley be that committee."

The result of these negotiations was the transfer of the Library of the Medical Society of the State of New York, in the summer of 1805, to the Governors of the New York Hospital, substantially upon the terms of the resolution just recited. The following year, 1806, the Society was merged into the Medical Society of the County of New York.

Proposals to establish a Library under the auspices of the Medical Society of the County of New York were advocated by the late Dr. David Hosack, in his inaugural address, as President of that Society, in 1824. These proposals were again urged by the late Dr. Peixotto, in an address, on a similar occasion, in 1831. The latter gentleman supplemented the scheme by advocating the establishment of a "Library Fund," the more effectually to accomplish the object. I am not aware that this latter suggestion was ever carried into effect. The records of the Society show that the formation of a Library was begun in 1825, and that a degree of success attended the effort. In July, 1831, the following statement was made by Dr. Peixotto, in his inaugural address on assuming the Presidency of the Society: "Little success has as yet attended the attempt to form a Library worthy of the character of our city, or adequate to supply the wants of an extended medical community. The time has, however, arrived, when we may, without exaggerated hopes, set about instituting a New York Medical Society Library. The mere number of our members is now so great, that a very small contribution from each, either in books or money, as an outfit, would form a respectable nucleus, which would not fail to be augmented by additional supplies. These would be furnished partly by individual liberality, partly by small annual contributions from each member, and, perhaps, we might venture to hope, not

altogether vainly, by public munificence. The distinguished incumbent of this chair (Dr. Hosack), to whom I have already had occasion to allude, long since promised to exercise his usual liberality in the promotion of this great object; and I sincerely believe that he is only prevented from evincing his munificence by the indifference of the Society, and by the want of suitable accommodations to receive and preserve valuable books. Other resources will not be wanting, I know, to enrich the collection. I respectfully suggest the adoption of immediate measures to enforce the success of so desirable an object. To this effect, let a separate fund, to be entitled the "Library Fund," be forthwith instituted; and for its accumulation we may confidently rely on the generous zeal, no less than the notorious wants of every member of the profession."

From the time of this earnest appeal a moderate degree of advance was made, and several hundred volumes were gathered together, and, within the recollection of some of those present, kept in the house of the Secretary, Dr. Henry S. Downs. Subsequently, about 1862, by order of the Censors of the Society, the collection was sold, and all further efforts towards the formation of a Library by this time-honored Society ceased.

The Library of the New York Hospital, as we have before intimated, had its origin in a recommendation made by the Medical Faculty of Columbia College, in June, 1795, to the Governors of the Hospital, who, on the 7th of July, 1796, acting upon suggestions, appropriated "the sum of five hundred dollars towards the purchase of a Medical Library; to which the members of that faculty contributed books from their private libraries, and part of their fees of public instruction. An Hospital Library was thus instituted, which was further augmented by the purchase of the medical library of the late Dr. Romaine, in 1800, and by the accession, in 1805, of the library of a private association of physicians, then called "The Medical Society of the State of New York," before referred to, who gave their books, on condition that they and such of their sons as

should become practitioners of medicine in the city of New York should have free use of the Hospital Library.

In 1805 the Governors appropriated the annual sum of two hundred and fifty dollars for the purchase of books; and other large additions were afterwards made to it by special purchases from time to time, among which was the valuable botanical library of Dr. Hosack, bought by the Hospital. This valuable library, which has from its origin possessed a permanent home, is the largest and in some respects the most complete collection in this city. It numbers near ten thousand volumes, and its average yearly increase is about one hundred and twenty-five volumes. It is under the guardianship of one whom we are pleased to say is an original member of this Academy, and who for more than thirty years has labored to promote its interests in all legitimate ways.

The Medical Journal Association of the City of New York was organized in the autumn of 1864, and has included among its members many of the most prominent men of the profession in the city. Its original plan was to establish only a library of medical journals and monographs, to the exclusion of ordinary medical works. A change was made in this plan, followed by the purchase of the libraries of the late Drs. Batchelder, Elliot, and Foster, at a cost of nearly four thousand dollars, an innovation which created some division of sentiment, and finally led to the dispersion of the collection of medical books, which formed the greater part of this library, and a restoration of the primary objects for which the Association was organized.

The late Dr. Valentine Mott, by a provision of his will, directed that his library and surgical instruments should not be sold or divided, but preserved together and placed in a room, specially appropriated to that purpose, during the lifetime of his wife, who might bequeath them to one or more of his grandsons who should bear his name, study medicine, be a graduate, and have a respectable, honorable name. This library, with that of the late Dr. Isaac Wood, forms that known as the Mott Memorial, Medical, and Surgical Library.

Other libraries, or small collections of medical books, exist in connection with medical colleges, hospitals, etc. That of the College of Physicians and Surgeons contains about twelve hundred volumes. This collection is (when accessible) free to the Trustees, Fellows, and matriculated students of the college. The library of Bellevue Hospital contains about three hundred and fifty volumes. It is intended for the use of the medical and surgical staff of the hospital. Its increase during several years past has been nominal.

The Medical Department of the University of the City of New York, during the past year, has instituted measures for the formation of a library, and some advance has been made in this direction. It is the design of the Faculty to prosecute the work with increasing diligence.

Several of the public libraries of this city have a department of medicine, and the foremost of this class, in point of number of volumes, is the Astor Library. This library contains about seven thousand five hundred volumes on medicine and the collateral sciences; including chemistry, botany, and medical periodicals. It is free to all who wish to consult it. The Mercantile Library contains about one thousand volumes on medicine and the collateral sciences. The New York Society Library contains also about one thousand volumes on medicine, botany, etc. The two last named require, from such as are not members, a subscription fee.

The library of the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York contains about one thousand two hundred volumes of standard works on all branches of the pharmaceutical profession, and includes many recent works, also files of the American and Foreign pharmaceutical journals. It is free to the members and alumni of the college.

I appeal to you, gentlemen, to answer, that if the diversified efforts in past years, by the medical men of New York, in establishing small and separate libraries, had been concentrated upon one object, that of collecting and preserving a

single large reference medical library, the work would have been already accomplished?

It is deemed unnecessary to apologize for the minutia of the details which we have given of the efforts of the medical profession in this city to secure for itself a medical library, for in these details are disclosed the history, and method, by which the profession lost its vantage ground in a movement which, in more than one sense of the word, is an element of professional growth, improvement, and renown. We gather from these details the fact that the lack of success of nearly every attempt lay in the want of persistent effort, and the absence of a permanent home in which the organization could collect, preserve, and keep intact—free from the possibility of dispersion the small accessions that were made from time to time to their collections. Accumulation is almost as much the result of preservation as of addition; and, to preserve any collection of books, a place of permanent deposit is a certain prerequisite to ultimate success. And now that we have such a place, permit me to present for your consideration some remarks on the ways and means by which this Academy may build up such a library.

A well-founded medical library in this city, and under the auspices of this Academy, can be accomplished now that we possess a permanent Home, as follows:

1st. The institution of a Library Fund, which should be properly invested in such securities as will be safe and yet yield a fair interest—this interest only to be used for the purchase of such books as are needed, and which are not likely to come into the library by gift. In this connection let me say that the Bar Association of this city laid the foundation of its Library Fund in 1870, by one hundred members subscribing \$100 each in cash. This fund, I learn, affords ample means for all necessary yearly additions to the library of that institution, which now, at the end of six years, contains ten thousand volumes.

It is now believed by many that the institution of such a fund by members of this Academy can be effectually accomplished. The necessity is urgent! Have we not reason to

believe that in all divisions of knowledge the discovery of the causes of lack of success in a meritorious enterprise will lead the wise and good to develop positive means for remedying the defect?

2d. By voluntary donations of medical books, pamphlets, journals, portraits, engravings, busts, manuscripts, etc., etc., which may have become to their possessors useless or burdensome. And in this connection I would respectfully suggest that for the better encouragement of said donations, this Academy direct that its Library shall be open to the use of all regular members of the profession.

A popular error exists in the profession, and it has done much to retard the establishment of a good reference medical library in this city. There are not a few who believe that only the best books and latest editions are worth preserving. This idea has tended greatly to retard the growth of our own Library during even the past two years. No book or pamphlet is worthless; every waif from the mental laboratory of the practical physician contains a fact, or, it may be a statement of facts, which, however darkly concealed or obscured by peculiarities of language or description, will ultimately be unearthed, and serve the genius of practical medicine or medical history. In illustration of the truth of this statement, witness the recent disclosure which your speaker made first in the Section on Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children, and afterward in this Academy, that more than a century since Drs. Colden and Bard described here epidemics of diphtheria—the scourge of our city in these days.

The description of this disease by Dr. Colden, in 1753, lies concealed in a somewhat scarce and neglected publication of a long since extinct medical society of London;* whilst the description of the epidemic of this disease in this city, in 1770, by Dr. Samuel Bard, is contained in this little brochure † which

* Medical Observations and Inquiries by a Society of Physicians of London. Vol. I. London, 1757.

† An Enquiry into the Nature and cure of the Angina Suffocativa, or Sore

your speaker rescued from the press-box of a second-hand paper-dealer in this city *in transitu* to the maw of a paper-mill. Its former owner had sold it for the eighth part of a cent, or at the rate of two cents per pound.

With your permission, I will read extracts from its precious pages. In speaking of the epidemic he says :

“ In general, this disease was confined to children under ten years old, though some few grown persons, particularly women (while it prevailed), had symptoms in some respects resembling it. Most of those who had it were observed to droop for several days before they were confined. And the first symptoms, in most instances, were a slightly inflamed and watery eye, a bloated and livid countenance, with a few red eruptions here and there upon the face, and in one case a small ulcer in the nose, whence oozed an ichor so sharp as to inflame and erode the upper lip. At the same time, or very soon after, such as could speak complained of an uneasy sensation in the throat, but without any great soreness or pain. Upon examining it the tonsils, *or almonds*, appeared swelled and slightly inflamed with a few white specks upon them, which in some increased so as to cover them all over with one general slough, and in a few the swelling was so great as almost to close up the passage of the throat ; but this, although a frequent symptom, did not invariably attend the disease ; and some had all the other symptoms without it. The breath was either no ways offensive, or had only that kind of smell which is occasioned by worms ; and the swallowing was very little, if at all, impeded.

“ These symptoms, with a slight fever at night, continued in some for five or six days without alarming their friends ; in others a difficulty of breathing came on within twenty-four hours, especially in the time of sleep, and was often suddenly increased to so great a degree as to threaten immediate suffocation. In general, however, it came on later, increased more

Throat Distemper, as it is commonly called by the Inhabitants of this City and Colony. By Samuel Bard, M.D., and Professor of Medicine in King's College, New York. New York : MDCCLXXI.

gradually, and was not constant; but the patient would now and then enjoy an interval of an hour or two in which he breathed with ease, and then again a laborious breathing would ensue, during which he seemed incapable of filling his lungs, as if the air was drawn through a too narrow passage.

“This stage of the disease was attended with a very great and sudden prostration of strength; a very remarkable hollow, dry cough, and a peculiar change in the tone of the voice, not easily described, but so singular that a person who had once heard it could almost certainly know the disease again by hearing the patient cough or speak. In some the voice was almost entirely lost, and would continue very weak and low for several weeks after recovery. A constant fever attended this disease, but it was much more remarkable in the night than in the day time; and in some there was a remarkable remission towards morning. The pulse at the wrist was in general quick, soft, and fluttering, though not very low, and it was remarkable that at the same time the pulsations of the heart were rather strong and smart than feeble. The heat was not very great, and the skin was commonly moist.

“These symptoms continued for one, two, or three days. By that time it was usual for them to be greatly increased in such as died; and the patients, though commonly somewhat comatous from the beginning, now became much more so; yet even when the disorder was at the worst, they retained their senses, and would give distinct answers when spoken to; although, on being left to themselves, they lay for the most part in a lethargic situation, only raising up now and then to receive their drink. Great restlessness and jactation came on towards the end of the disease, the sick perpetually tossing from one side of the bed to the other, but they were still so far comatous as to appear to be asleep, immediately upon changing their situation or posture. An universal languor and dejection were observed in their countenances; the swelling of the face subsided; a profuse sweat broke out about the head, neck, and breast, particularly when asleep; a purging in several came on; the

difficulty of breathing increased, so as to be frequently almost entirely obstructed, and the patient died apparently from suffocation. This commonly happened about the end of the fourth or fifth day; in several within thirty-six hours from the time the difficulty of breathing first came on.

“One child, however, lived, under these circumstances, to the eighth day; and the day before he died, his breath and what he coughed up was somewhat offensive; but this was the only instance in which I could discover anything like a disagreeable smell, either from the breath or expectoration.

“Out of sixteen cases attended with this remarkable suffocation in breathing, seven died; five of them before the fifth day, the other two about the eighth. Of those who recovered, the disease was carried off in one, by a plentiful salivation, which began on the sixth day; in most of the others, by an expectoration of a viscid mucus.”

“One of the first families in which this disease appeared was that of Mr. W. W., of this place. He had seven children in his family, all of whom were taken ill, one after another. The four first had the disease as I have just now described, and three of these died; the one who recovered was the instance I mentioned, in which the disease was carried off by a salivation. The other three were the youngest. They had not the difficulty of breathing, but, in its stead, very troublesome ulcers behind their ears. These began with a few red pimples, which soon run together, itched violently, and discharged a great deal of a very sharp ichor, so as to erode the neighboring parts, and in a few days spread all over the back part of the ear, and down upon the neck. They all had a fever, particularly at night, and one of them had a perpetual tenesmus (*or urging to go to stool*). This symptom appeared in some who had the difficulty of breathing, but in none to so remarkable a degree as in this child.

“After this many other children had similar ulcers behind their ears, and some of them seemed slightly affected with the difficulty of breathing; but it never became alarming while this

discharge continued. These ulcers would continue for several weeks, appeared covered in some places with sloughs, resembling those on the tonsils, and at last grew very painful and uneasy.

"In some cases they were attended with swellings of the glands under the tongue and behind the ears, which subsided on the eruption appearing and discharging freely, and again swelled upon the discharge being checked."

"I have had an opportunity of examining the nature and seat of this disease, from dissection, in three instances. One was a child of three years old. Her first complaint was an uneasiness in her throat. Upon examining it, the tonsils appeared swelled and inflamed, with large white sloughs upon them, the edges of which were remarkably more red than the other parts of the throat. She had no great soreness in her throat, and could swallow with little or no difficulty. She complained of a pain under her left breast; her pulse was quick, soft, and fluttering. The heat of her body was not very great, and her skin was moist; her face was swelled; she had a considerable prostration of strength, with a very great difficulty of breathing, a very remarkable hollow cough, and a peculiar change in the tone of her voice. The next day her difficulty of breathing was increased, and she drew her breath in the manner before described, as if the air was forced through too narrow a passage, so that she seemed incapable of filling her lungs. She was exceedingly restless, tossing perpetually from side to side, was sensible, and, when asked a question, would give a pertinent answer, but otherways she appeared dull and comatous. All these symptoms continued, or rather increased, until the third night, on which she had five or six loose stools, and died early in the morning.

"Upon examining the body, which was done on the afternoon of the day she died, all the back parts of the throat, and the root of the tongue, were found interspersed with sloughs, which still retained their whitish color. Upon removing them, the parts underneath appeared rather pale than inflamed. No

putrid smell could be perceived from them, nor was the corpse in the least offensive. The œsophagus, or *gullet*, appeared as in a sound state. The epiglottis, *which covers the wind-pipe*, was a little inflamed, on its external surface, and on the inner side, together with the whole larynx, was covered with the same tough white sloughs as the glands of the throat. The whole trachea, quite down to its division in the lungs, was lined with an inspissated mucus, in form of a membrane, remarkably tough and firm, which, when it came into the lungs, seemed to grow thin and disappear. It was so tough as to require no inconsiderable force to tear it, and came out whole from the trachea, which it left with much ease, and resembled more than anything, both in thickness and appearance, a sheath of thin shammy leather. The inner membrane of the trachea was slightly inflamed; the lungs too appeared inflamed, as in peripneumonic cases; particularly the right lobe, on which there were many large livid spots, though neither rotten nor offensive; and the left lobe had small black spots on it, resembling those marks left under the skin by gunpowder. Upon cutting into any of the larger spots, which appeared on the right lobe, a bloody sanies issued from them without frothing, whereas, upon cutting those parts which appeared sound, a whitish froth, but slightly tinged with blood, followed the knife." . . .

"This is a faithful history of this complaint, as it appeared in most of the cases I have met with, and in which I have been careful to enumerate such symptoms only as I myself have seen."

"Upon the whole, therefore, I am led to conclude that the disease called by the Italians *morbus strangulatorius*, the croup of Dr. Home, the sore throat of Huxham and Fothergill, this disease, and that described by Doctor Douglass of Boston, however they may differ in the symptoms of putrescency and malignancy, do all bear an essential affinity and relation to each other, are apt to run into one another, and, in fact, arise from the same Leven, which, as Doctor Fothergill styles it, is a *stimulus of a peculiar nature*, which more or less, according to particular

circumstances, generates an acrimony in the humours, and disposes them to putrefaction, and which has a singular tendency to attack the throat and trachea, affecting the mucous glands of these parts in such a way as to occasion them to secrete their natural mucus in greater quantities than is sufficient for the purposes of nature ; and which, in this particular species, when secreted, is either really of a tougher, or more viscid consistence than natural, or is disposed to become so from rest and stagnation."

"THE disease I have described appeared evidently to be of an infectious nature : all infection must be owing to something received into the body ; this, therefore, whatever it is, being drawn in by the breath of a healthy child, irritates the glands of the fauces and trachea as it passes by them, and brings about a change in their secretions. The infection, however, did not seem in the present case to depend so much on any prevailing disposition of the air, as upon affluvia received from the breath of infected persons. This will account why the disorder should go through a whole family, and not affect the next-door neighbor ; and hence we learn a very useful lesson, namely, to remove all the young children in a family as soon as any one is taken with the disease ; by which caution, I am convinced, many lives have been, and may again be preserved.

"Such are the sentiments which, from an attentive observation of the symptoms and progress of this disease, I have entertained of its nature" "It has gone too much under the appellation of a sore-throat, and has by many been confounded with the common diseases of that kind, so that parents have often been greatly alarmed where there was no cause of fear, and much terrified where there was no symptom of danger. In truth, the throat, altho' frequently affected, is not the seat of the disease, and many have died where that has been entirely free from complaint ; nor are swelled tonsils, an inflammation in the throat, even where it should happen to be specked, or a palate hanging to one side, any more the marks of this distemper than *a very laborious breathing, a hoarse*

ollow cough, and a peculiar change in the tone of the voice, unattended with inflammation, are the signs of a common quinsy."

The disease which Dr. Bard thus described, writes the learned Dr. Mitchill,* more than fifty years since, "has puzzled the physicians who have read his publication. For Cullen, the acute nosologist, places it in the list of work on the cynanche maligna; while Albers, the successful competitor for the Bonapartean medal, quotes it as a treatise on cynanche trachealis. The former classes it with writings on the malignant or ulcerous sore-throat, while the latter ranks it with the publications on croup or tracheitis infantum. It is remarkable (continues the learned Doctor) that Cullen should have mistaken the malady for cynanche maligna, since the three dissections of children, who died of it, all proved the existence of a tough lining of inspissated mucus or lymph in the trachea. That great man was probably misled by the name of sore-throat distemper, by the symptom of troublesome ulcers behind the ears, and by the opinion of the author that it was of an infectious nature."

How strange and yet interesting these declarations of the learned men of one hundred, or even fifty years since, appear in the light of the modern doctrines of semeiology and pathology! And with how much greater respect do we regard the clinical acumen of the distinguished Dr. Bard, whom we are proud to recognize as the author of the first American treatise on the Art and Science of Midwifery!

This small tract was translated into the French language by M. Ruett, and published in Paris in 1810, more than ten years before M. Bretonneau's first paper appeared.

Will any Fellow of this Academy, from this time forward, despise the day of small things, or consign to collectors of rags or paper stock the pamphlets, or old editions of medical

* A Discourse on the Life and Character of Samuel Bard, M.D., LL.D. By Samuel L. Mitchill, M.D., LL.D. New York: 1821.

works, which he may weed from his library or garret? Will not all bear in constant remembrance that here, in this our own Medical Home, will be gratefully received and carefully treasured every tract, pamphlet, book, manuscript, engraving, portrait, small or great, which may be donated?

And, finally, Fellows of the Academy, this Institution can only advance in the estimation of the profession by the most persevering labor of each one of us. The science of medicine claims from its votaries the most persistent devotion; and any contribution made here to that science, or to any of its departments, by the younger members of this Academy, will secure for them respect as profound as that given to the eldest Fellows among us. And here, before entering fully upon a new term of service, let me ask every one of you: Does the medical world belong only to the generation which inhabits it? Is it not rather an entailed estate, the income of which the present possessors have the right to enjoy, but not the right to squander or scatter? Are they not in honor bound to preserve the estate intact, institute and develop such permanent improvements as will tend to meet the wants of the generations which will follow? Such are the dictates of a generous philanthropy, which emanate from a proper love of mankind, and have the approval of that sound judgment which is strengthened by observation and matured by age. Let not, then, those who have labored for years past to build up here an institution that shall advance the best interests of medicine, and at the same time be as free as possible from the foibles of the profession, become weary in heart; the design is being steadily carried into effect; the end can be surely reached—the object will, by persevering effort, be accomplished.

Again, fellow associates, let me ask your indulgence while I attempt to discharge impartially the duties which your favor a second time has devolved upon me.

